

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5688

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0267

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, UY

SUBJ: PROPOSED ABA MISSION VISIT TO URUGUAY

REF: A) STATE 17163, B) MONTEVIDEO 5819

1. I APPRECIATE THAT THE ABA HAS DECIDED TO DELAY ITS VISIT UNTIL MARCH. I AM CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT REFTEL A INDICATES THAT THE ABA MAY NOT BE PLANNING TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE GOU ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS VISIT. ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY IS PREPARED TO ASSIST, IT IS IMPORTANT TO THE SUCCESS OF THE VISIT, AND MORE IN KEEPING WITH ITS UNOFFICIAL NATURE AS WELL AS THE DESIRES OF THE GOU, THAT THE ABA DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE GOU TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE, JUST AS THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES IS DOING FOR ITS VISIT.

2. WE THEREFORE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT BUTLER BE ADVISED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

A. AS SUGGESTED PARA 5 (A) REFTEL B, ABA PRESIDENT SPANN SHOULD SEND A FORMAL LETTER TO PRESIDENT MENDEZ (AS A FELLOW LAWYER) WHICH SPELS OUT THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT, PROVIDES BIOGRAPHIC PROFILES ON THE TEAM MEMBERS AND REQUESTS MENDEZ' COOPERATION IN FACILITATING THE VISIT AND ASSURING ITS SUCCESS.

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B. BUTLER SHOULD FOLLOW UP WITH A SIMILAR, MORE DETAILED LETTER TO AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS REQUESTING TO MEET WITH HIM TO WORK OUT THE SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE VISIT.

C. CONGRESSMAN FRASER SHOULD SEND HIS LETTER OF SUPPORT AND ENDORSEMENT TO AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS, NOTING THAT HIS SUB-COMMITTEE WILL BE INTERESTED IN THE VISIT'S RESULTS AND MAY

HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS AFTERWARD.

D. BUTLER SHOULD SEND COPIES OF THESE LETTERS TO THIS EMBASSY AND KEEP US INFORMED SO THAT WE CAN FOLLOW UP FROM HERE TO ENSURE THAT ARRANGEMENTS ARE PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY, AND TO HELP RESOLVE ANY PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTIONS ASKED IN REFTEL A, THE PROPOSED MARCH 13-17 DATES APPEAR ACCEPTABLE BUT FORMAL ACCEPTANCE BY THE GOU IS SOMETHING THE ABA TEAM SHOULD REQUEST OF PRESIDENT MENDEZ AND AMB. PEREZ CALDAS IN THEIR LETTERS TO EACH. WE BELIEVE THAT THE TEAM WILL WANT TO CALL ON APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS SUCH AS FOREIGN MINISTER DR. ALEJANDRO ROVIRA, MINISTER OF JUSTICE DR. FERNANDO BAYARDO, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE COMMISSION ON RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS DR. HAMLET REYES (WHO IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL), PRESIDENT OF THE COURT OF JUSTICE (FORMERLY SUPREME COURT) DR. FRANCISCO MARCORA, AND PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME MILITARY COURT, COL. SILVA LEDESMA. BUTLER, HOWEVER, SHOULD ALSO RAISE THE QUESTION OF SPECIFIC APPOINTMENTS IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS. THE GOU MAY WISH TO RECOMMEND OTHER APPOINTMENTS, AND MIGHT EVEN PROPOSE A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MENDEZ AND/OR THE THREE MILITARY COMMANDERS DEPENDING ON HOW IT WISHES TO TREAT ABA VISIT.

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4. WE CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT INCLUDING RECQUE, BUT IF THE ABA IN ITS LETTER FORMALLY PROPOSES RECQUE AND THE GOU OFFERS NO OBJECTION THAT WILL RESOLVE THE ISSUE. BUTLER SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT, EVEN THOUGH IT MAY ACQUIESCE IN RECQUE, IF THE GOU HAS NOT MADE ITS PEACE WITH THE IAHRIC PRIOR TO THE ABA VISIT, THE GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTING MEDIA WILL PROBABLY BE ALLOWED TO ATTACK RECQUE'S CREDENTIALS AS AN UNBIASED OBSERVER, AND DRAG IN THE IAHRIC ISSUE.

5. I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING WITH BUTLER IN LATE FEBRUARY. HOWEVER, HE SHOULD BEGIN NOW TO TAKE THE STEPS RECOMMENDED ABOVE.
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